

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 153525 TOSEC 050023

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SUMMARY NUMBER 2: TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY

ARGENTINA: LABOR CONFRONTATION WITH GOVERNMENT

IN WHAT THE EMBASSY TERMED A GUTSY SPEECH DELIVERED WITH
TABLE POUNDING AND FLASHING EYES, ARGENTINA'S PRESIDENT
PERON ACCUSED LABOR LEADERS OF LETTING HER DOWN AND
REFUSING TO UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF ARGENTINA'S
ECONOMIC SITUATION. CITING HER AUTHORITY AND
RESPONSIBILITY, SHE ANNOUNCED THAT SHE COULD NOT ACCEDE
TO LABOR/MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS PROVIDING FOR WAGE
AGREEMENTS OF UP TO 130 PERCENT, BUT WOULD ACCEPT
INCREASES OF UP TO EIGHTY PERCENT:

-- ABOR LEADERS ARE UNLIKELY TO BE SATISFIED BY THE
PRESIDENT'S ACTION AND MAY CALL A NATIONWIDE STRIKE
TO LAST UNTIL THE PRESIDENT CHANGES HER MIND.

--THE ARMED FORCES HAVE REFUSED A LOPEZ REGA REQUEST
TO HELP ASSURE CONTROL OF THE STREETS AND HAVE
INDICATED THEY WILL MAINTAIN A STRICTLY HANDS-OFF
SECRET

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ATTITUDE EVEN IN CASE OF A GENERAL STRIKE; LABOR
LEADERS HAVE BEEN ASSURED OF THE MILITARY'S
"BENIGN INACTION".

--SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS HAVE LINED UP AGAINST LOPEZ REGA, LABOR MINISTER OTERO HAS RESIGNED, AND BLOCS IN THE SENATE HAVE ISSUED STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF LABOR.

INR COMMENT: PRESIDENT PERON'S STATEMENT IS ESSENTIALLY AN OPEN CHALLENGE TO THE LABOR LEADERS. BY ELECTING TO HOLD DOWN WAGES AND BACK THE AUSTERITY PROGRAM OF ECONOMY MINISTER RODRIGO, MRS. PERON HAS FORCED THE UNION CHIEFS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN ACCEPTING A CLEAR DEFEAT AT HER HANDS AND THOSE OF HER HATED CONFIDANT, LOPEZ REGA, OR MASSING LABOR SUPPORT FOR OUSTING THE PAIR. IF THE UNION CHIEFS DECIDE FOR CONFRONTATION, THE CHANCES FOR STREET VIOLENCE ARE HIGH FOR THE COMING DAYS.

LEBANON: A GLIMMER OF HOPE

AGAINST A BACKDROP OF CONTINUING TENSIONS, REVITALIZED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN BEIRUT HAVE RAISED HOPES THAT A FORMULA CAN BE FOUND TO BREAK THE IMPASSE IN THE FORMATION OF A NEW CABINET:

--A SUMMIT MEETING OF SUNNI MOSLEM LEADERS HAS ADOPTED A MODERATE AND CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE.

--SHIITE SPIRITUAL LEADER IMAM MUSA IS PRESSING FOR THE FORMATION OF A NON-PARTISAN GOVERNMENT AND HAS DECIDED TO ATTEMPT NON-VIOLENT ACTION BEFORE DECIDING IF ARMED SHIITE INTERVENTION IS REQUIRED.

--WELL-INFORMED OBSERVERS PREDICT THAT CHRISTIAN ALLIES OF THE PHALANGE WILL SEEK TO CONVINCE IT TO ACCEPT THE FORMATION OF A SMALL, TEMPORARY CABINET UNDER KARAME WITHOUT DIRECT PHALANGIST REPRESENTATION.

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--EFFORTS OF THE PALESTINIAN LEFT-WING TO DRAW FATAH AND SAIQA INTO THE FRAY HAVE BEEN THUS FAR UNSUCCESSFUL.

ITALY: GOVERNMENT CRISIS CONTINUES

SIX LEFTWING MEMBERS OF ITALY'S CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (DC) PARTY, INCLUDING THREE CABINET MINISTERS, HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR RESIGNATIONS FROM THE PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THE SIX:

--URGED THE RESIGNATION OF THE ENTIRE 44-MAN PARTY COMMITTEE;

--CALLED FOR PROFOUND CHANGES IN DC POLICY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE COUNTRY'S NEW POLITICAL SITUATION.

MEANWHILE, THE SOCIALIST PARTY DIRECTORATE HAS REFUSED DC OFFERS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE FOUR PARTY CENTER-LEFT COALITION UNTIL THE DC HAS UNDERTAKEN A ,COMPLETE REVISION OF ITS POLICY."

INR COMMENT: SO LONG AS THE THREE DC MINISTERS KEEP THEIR CABINET POSTS THERE WILL NOT BE A GOVERNMENT CRISIS. IF THEY RESIGN THEIR CABINET SEATS AS WELL AS THEIR CENTRAL COMMITTEE POSITIONS, THE GOVERNMENT COULD WELL FALL.

FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS COOLING

IN WHAT EMBASSY PARIS DESCRIBES AS THE FIRST OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF SOVIET DISPLEASURE WITH THE GOF, QUAI OFFICER IN CHARGE OF EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS LEQUERTIER HAS SPOKEN OF A COOLING-OFF PERIOD IN PARIS/MOSCOW RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO LEQUERTIER:

--PERSONAL STYLE AND CONTACTS ARE MORE IMPORTANT IN RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS THAN GENERALLY ASSUMED AND THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET COME TO KNOW GISCARD.

--THE SOVIETS ARE IRRITATED BY GISCARD'S WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC AND INTERIOR MINISTER SECRET

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PONIATOWSKI TO MAKE BLISTERING ATTACKS ON THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS.

--THE SOVIETS CONSIDERED TENG HSIAO-PING'S SPECTACULAR VISIT TO PARIS PROVOCATIVE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ARE IMPORTANT TO GISCARD FOR INTERNAL AS WELL AS EXTERNAL REASONS. WITH UNEMPLOYMENT RISING TO THE LEVEL OF POSSIBLE SOCIAL INSTABILITY, GISCARD CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE SOVIET HOSTILITY AGGRAVATING POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WITH THE LEFT OPPOSITION. HIS TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION, NOW SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER, AND HIS STATEMENT THAT HE SYMPATHIZES WITH SOVIET FEARS OF AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN DEFENSE AGREEMENT ARE CALCULATED TO DISPEL MUCH OF THE PRESENT COOLNESS.

WHO DUNNIT ALA ZAIRE

ZAIRIAN CHARGES OF CIA COMPLICITY IN A COUP ATTEMPT HAVE GONE INTERNATIONAL:

--THE ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR IN LUSAKA CHARGED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT KINSHASA HAS "PROVED" THAT THE CIA WAS

INVOLVED IN THE COUP.

--AMBASSADOR EFOMI IN STOCKHOLM HAS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN STOCKHOLM, COPENHAGEN, HELSINKI
AND OSLO A PAMPHLET CHARGING THAT THE COUP ATTEMPT WAS
"PREPARED AND FINANCED BY A GREAT FOREIGN POWER THAT IS
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

PANAMANIAN REACTION TO THE SNYDER AMENDMENT

PANAMANIAN NEWSMEDIA HAVE GIVEN THE HOUSE APPROVAL
OF THE SNYDER AMENDMENT FRONT PAGE TREATMENT BUTH AVE

FOCUSED THUS FAR ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S OPPOSITION
TO THE AMENDMENT. THIS IS DUE TO GENERAL TORRIJOS'
DECISION TO TRY TO MINIMIZE POSSIBLE ANTI-US
REACTION ON THE PART OF PANAMANIAN AND HIS
SECRET

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EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE THAT THE US MAINTAIN
ITS COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATE. PRIVATELY, HOWEVER,
THE EMBASSY REPORTS TORRIJOS AND THOSE AROUND HIM
ARE SHOCKED, FRUSTRATED AND WORRIED BY THE PASSAGE
OF THE AMENDMENT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CANAL
TREATY NEGOTIATIONS AND ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT ON
PANAMANIAN POLITICS. INGERSOLL

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